

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2010 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4

3 Points

One point is earned for a correct definition of a rentier state.

Acceptable definitions include:

- a country that obtains lucrative income by exporting a raw material or leasing out a natural resource to foreign countries
- a country that obtains much of its revenue from the export of oil or another natural resource
- a country that receives a significant amount of income in the form of rents from foreign companies

Note: The answer must show that not only are resources purchased or leased from the other state, but significant *income is accrued* by the state.

One point is earned for a correct identification of one country in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that is a rentier state.

Acceptable identifications include:

- Iran
- Nigeria
- Russia

One point is earned for a correct description of a problem that a rentier state typically faces that has an impact on economic development.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- lack of diversification of the local economy
- price fluctuations caused by dependence on world market
- income inequality exacerbated where disparity is already extreme
- no incentive to industrialize/modernize economy
- increased opportunity for corrupt usage of income from rents
- lack of accountability to citizens

Note: Foreign economic investment alone is not a sufficient answer. The response must show that investments are made in a specific resource that produces the major portion of the state's income/budget.

A score of 0 is earned for an attempted answer that merits no points.

A score of dash (–) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.

4

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering,
on this page as it is designated in the exam.

4A

A rentier state is a state that derives most of its income by selling a natural resource to foreigners. Nigeria is a rentier state. Rentier states are problematic because the government is able to ~~maintain itself without~~ acquire tremendous revenue without developing the local economy, so there is no incentive for the government to modernize the economy.

A rentier state is a state that makes its revenue by renting out their land to foreign investment. One rentier state studied in AP comparative politics and government is Iran. One problem a rentier state typically faces that impacts economic development is that the rentier state relies solely on the price of their product. If the ^{prices of the} product they are renting out plummets, such as oil in Iran, the entire economy collapses and the rentier state no longer has revenue.

4

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering
on this page as it is designated in the exam.

4C

~~A~~ rentier state is a state ~~in which~~ in which
the government gets help from other
nations. An example of this
is Nigeria and ~~some~~ problems
that came with it are dependency.
They came to depend on help
from other nations, which is not
good for its independence.

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2010 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 4

Overview

The intent of this question was for students to discuss the concept of a rentier state and its impact on economic development. Students were asked to define a rentier state; to identify one rentier state; and to describe a problem that a rentier state typically faces that has an impact on economic development. The skills tested were both descriptive and analytical: to define, identify and describe.

Sample: 4A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for defining a rentier state as “a state that derives most of its income by selling a natural resource to foreigners,” and 1 point for identifying Nigeria as a rentier state. An additional point was earned for describing how the “tremendous revenue” that Nigeria gained from the sale of its natural resource reduced the “incentive for the government to modernize the economy.”

Sample: 4B

Score: 2

The response earned no point for defining a rentier state but earned 1 point for identifying Iran as a rentier state. The response also earned 1 point for describing how, if the price of the product on which the economy relies “plummets,” the result may be that the “economy collapses.”

Sample: 4C

Score: 1

The response earned no point for the statement that a “rentier state is a state in which the government gets help from other nations.” One point was earned for identifying Nigeria as a rentier state, but no point was earned for describing a problem that a rentier state faces and the impact of that problem on economic development.